



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

## Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Residency Program

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NFSG VHS) is proud to announce a one-year post-graduate traineeship for new Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs). The program is located in **Gainesville, Florida**, on site at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center (MRVAMC) and local off-site specialty clinics.

Please contact the program director with any questions. **Applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>** and can be sent directly by email: Dr. Kerry Creasy, PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC. MH-NP Residency Program Director. [Kerry.creasy@va.gov](mailto:Kerry.creasy@va.gov)

### **Program Description:**

The program is designed to support the new graduate in acquiring the competencies needed for successful independent practice as an advanced practice nurse within a complex, Veteran-centric health care environment. Specifically, the program provides training in culturally sensitive, patient-centered care using empirically based best practices and interprofessional collaboration. The program is 80% clinical and 20% didactic. Residents are required to complete a scholarly project and presentation during the training year.

***Program Mission:*** The mission of the NFSG VHS NP Residency is to enhance the scientific knowledge, clinical expertise, and professionalism of novice PMHNPs by providing a safe, mentored transition of the newly licensed and board-certified PMHNP into a competent and confident professional, thereby providing excellent care to military Veterans.

### ***Program Goals:***

1. Increased confidence in the role of the PMHNP.
2. Increased competence in the practice of advanced psychiatric nursing care.
3. Enhanced utilization of scientific evidence to support nursing practice.
4. Increased retention of newly hired graduate PMHNPs in the VA workforce.

***Program Outcomes:*** The program welcomed its first cohort in in 2020. As of spring 2023,

1. 100% of graduates demonstrated increased confidence across all domains of practice.
2. 100% of graduates achieved anticipated competencies for practice across all domains.
3. 100% of graduates participated in evidence-based, quality improvement projects within the system, contributing to staff education and improved patient care access opportunities.
4. 100% of alumni retained gainful employment in the workforce, 50% of whom retained positions in VA.

Training domains include:

- Professional role development and career management
- Clinical assessment and case formulation
- Clinical documentation
- Treatment planning and patient engagement
- Mental health treatment, including evidence-based pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy, alternative and complementary approaches
- Consultation and interprofessional communication skills
- Patient-centered cultural competency (with a particular emphasis on Military and Veteran culture)
- Clinical scholarship, leadership, and program development and evaluation

Residents will rotate through clinics in NFSG and receive preceptorship from Nurse Practitioners and Psychiatrists in multiple settings. Each resident will manage a panel of patients in a year-long continuity clinic while also rotating through specialty mental health care settings, providing a comprehensive experience designed to prepare the graduate to work and lead in a complex healthcare environment. In addition to pharmacotherapeutic treatment, residents will be provided supervised experiences in evidence-based psychotherapy and have the opportunity to develop case management skills.

Required (Primary) rotations:

- Outpatient General Mental Health
- Substance Use Disorders Clinic
- Primary Care-Mental Health Integration

Opportunities for specialty experiences in:

- Inpatient Psychiatry/ECT/rTMS
- PTSD Clinic
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery Clinic
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management

**Benefits:**

- Stipend (as of AY 2023-2024): \$77,796
- A comprehensive benefits package that includes paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, and health benefits
- Hiring preference for open positions at *any* VA upon completion of the residency
- Active and ongoing professional development which includes opportunities for recruitment into open positions in NFSG VHS and other VA facilities

**Applicant Qualifications:**

- U.S. Citizenship
- Graduate of an accredited advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nursing program within the past 12 months
- Hold national credentialing as PMHNP through ANCC or eligible for ANCC board exam completion
- Licensure: Current, full, active, and unrestricted registration as a registered nurse in a State, Territory or Commonwealth (i.e., Puerto Rico) of the United States, or the District of Columbia.
- Current DEA with prescriptive authority/furnishing license (or eligibility to apply for as above)
- Current BLS; this must be maintained for the duration of VA employment
- Proficient in written and spoken English
- Pass a background/security investigation as required by the Veterans Health Administration
- Provide evidence or self-certification of satisfactory physical condition based on a physical examination in the past 12-months
- Provide evidence or self-certification of up-to-date vaccinations for healthcare workers as recommended by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and VA: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>
- Random drug testing may be required

**Application Requirements:**

- Curriculum vitae or professional resume (including graduation and board certification completion/test dates)
- A one to two page essay or cover letter describing interest in completing a VA PMHNP residency and how it fits with career aspirations. Please include specific interests in Veterans health care and short- and long-term goals.
- At least two (2) letters of recommendation\*:
  - one from an academic instructor OR place of employment
  - one from a clinical preceptor during the PMHNP program- may be NP, MD, or DO; may be from a Psychologist if the clinical experience was primarily psychotherapy.
- All nursing school transcripts (may be unofficial copies; ensure all information is legible after it is scanned)
- Copy of current BLS
- Copy of current RN license
- Copy of current APRN license, if available at time of application
- Copy of current ANCC board certification OR test date, if available, if available at time of application
- Application for Health Professions Trainees VA form 10-2850 (SSN may be omitted for security reasons)

*\*Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the program director from the reference person when possible.*

The fall cohort runs from August through July, and **applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup> of the training year**. Extenuating circumstances may delay program start date (i.e., global pandemic), so please contact the program director for specific dates or questions pertaining to the year for which you are applying. June and July graduates may apply and will be considered, as long as graduation is before the program start date.

Please contact the program director with any questions. Applications can be sent directly by email:  
Dr. Kerry Creasy, PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC. MH-NP Residency Program Director. [Kerry.creasy@va.gov](mailto:Kerry.creasy@va.gov)